

Rejoicing in the Messiah

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, February 15, 2015; Steve Thiel

At the end of John chapter 3, Jesus starts moving back north toward Galilee from Jerusalem. On His way, Jesus stops in Judea and begins baptizing people. John the Baptist is also baptizing, as he has been doing all along, which results in a discussion about the priority of John's ministry versus the ministry of Jesus. John, who has defined Himself as a voice and a witness, bears witness on last time to the fact that Jesus is the Messiah and therefore, He must increase and be sought after, whereas John the Baptist is crystal clear that he must decrease.

I. Responding to the Messiah – Read John 3:22-30 and answer the following questions

- A. According to verses 22-24, what is unique about this period of time in Jesus' ministry?
- B. Why did John's disciples complain about all the people coming to Jesus rather than to John?
- C. What did John recognize about the situation that enabled him to be content in decreasing?
- D. How did John view his role in light of the increasing popularity of Jesus the Messiah?
- E. As you think about your own walk with Christ, in what ways do you need to decrease?

II. Reasons for Rejoicing – Read John 3:31-36 and answer the following questions

- A. List all the things that are said about Jesus in verses 31-35, marking Him as the Messiah?
- B. What in this list convinces you that Jesus is much more than a great teacher?
- C. How does John compare those who believe in the Son with those who don't believe?
- D. What is the connection between believing and obeying? Are you believing and obeying?

III. Call for Rejoicing – Read and answer the following application questions

- A. Are you listening to John's witness about Jesus? How can you grow in your listening?
- B. If believing is obeying, what are the hardest commandments of God for you to obey?
- C. In what areas do you need to stop trusting your own thinking and start obeying Christ?